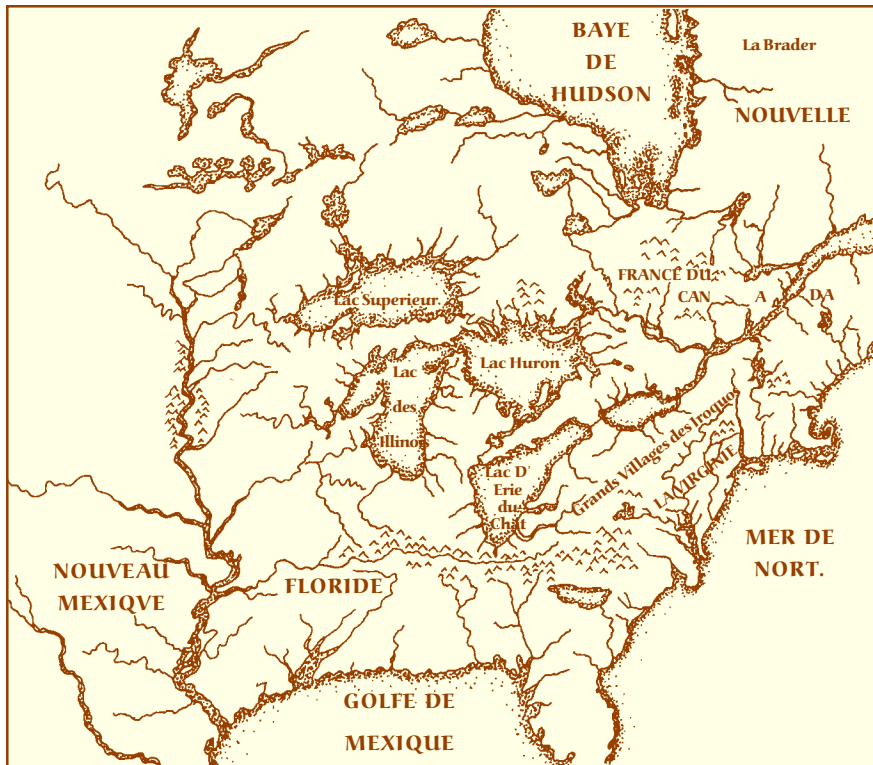


WaterLOGS

We don't know much about prehistoric times. No wonder! They were prehistoric; nobody wrote anything down! We think that people arrived in the Great Lakes region about 10,000 years ago. From the artifacts they left behind, we are fairly sure they fished, hunted, planted crops, and traveled on the lakes in canoes. We've pieced together quite a bit of their history, but there are many unanswered questions. The first European to travel on Lake Michigan was Jean Nicolet in 1634. He added it to his charts, but it wasn't what he was looking for. Surely, many other Europeans saw the Great Lakes, but most were illiterate. Their stories and discoveries are lost for all time.



FATHER
LOUIS HENNEPIN



THIS IS A LINE DRAWING OF A MAP HENNEPIN DREW IN 1697.
CHECK OUT THE SHAPE AND SIZE OF THE GREAT LAKES!

A WRITER AND a LIAR

René Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, explored Lake Michigan in 1679. Fortunately, a writer who served as the historian accompanied him.

Father Louis Hennepin took many notes, drew pictures, and created maps. The amazing thing is he did that while struggling to survive in a new land! Hennepin is credited with being the first European to see Niagara Falls.

He might not have been the first, but he was the first to record it! If Hennepin hadn't been along, many of the details of La Salle's work would be lost today.

Unfortunately, Hennepin was a notorious liar. After La Salle's death, Hennepin wrote a book claiming that it was he, not La Salle, who had explored the Mississippi and claimed the land for France.



OK, maybe Hennepin isn't the best example! The point is that, if people don't take the time to record their experiences, discoveries, and impressions, no one will ever know. Even if you were there, you will forget when you are older! You won't remember the details of how you felt, what something looked like, when it happened, and who was with you.

WRITE YOUR OWN HISTORY

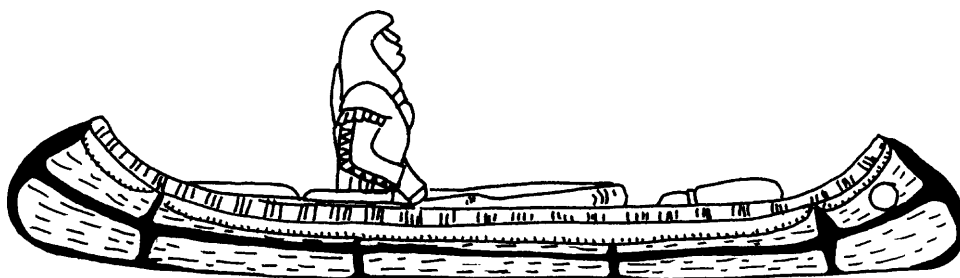
Personal waterlogs (journals and diaries) are important! Take a lesson from the early explorers. Record what's happening in your life. Start right now by recording a story about your Great Lakes experiences. Use maps, words, photos, and sketches.

Take a few minutes to jot something down or start a personal diary that can last a lifetime.

FIELD NOTES

In spite of his reputation as a liar, Hennepin was a great observer. He made careful notes of the wildlife he saw. He didn't just describe how animals looked and acted. He also shared his personal reactions and thoughts about them. Any guesses what this animal might be?

I have already mention'd a little Animal, like a Musk'd-Rat, that M. la Salle kill'd as we came from Fort Miamis to the Illinois, which deserves a particular Description. It looks like a Rat as to the Shape of its Body, but it is as big as a Cat: His Skin looks Silver-like, with some fair black Hair, which makes the Colour the more admirable. His Tail is without any Hair, as big as a Man's Finger, and about a Foot long, wherewith he hangs himself to the Boughs of Trees. That Creature has under the Belly a kind of a Bag, wherein they put their young ones when they are purfu'd; which is one of the most wonderful things of the World, and a clear Demonstration of the Providence and Goodness of the Almighty, who takes so particular a Care of the meaneft of his Creatures.



GREAT LAKES ADVENTURE

Read about the incredible adventures and amazing survival of a little carved canoe in *Paddle-to-the-Sea*. You can find the book at your local library. The author's use of drawings, maps, and drama might inspire you to record the stories of your own adventures!

PARKPACKS

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